

Dear Parents,

Governing Body: Co-Chairs

We are very pleased to be able to introduce ourselves, Tom Jeans and Zoe Leventhal, as the new co-chairs of the Governing Body of Wimbledon Chase Primary School. We were elected by the Governing Body this week, following the recent decision by Alex Duncan to step down as chair.

We are looking forward to working together to support the School in this exciting new phase following Jill's appointment as Headteacher earlier this year. As co-chairs, we will be sharing the duties and responsibilities associated with leading the Governing Body, as is becoming more common in other schools across Merton and elsewhere.

So, what do Governors do?

The Governing Body provides strategic leadership and accountability in the School and has three key functions:

- *Overseeing the financial performance of the School and making sure its money is well spent;*
- *Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the School and its pupils;*
- *Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.*

Whilst both of us are relatively new governors, there is a huge wealth of expertise, skills and interests on the Governing Body, which we look forward to drawing on so that together we can ensure Wimbledon Chase continues to thrive for all of our children and our community. We are all united – governors, staff and parents - by our commitment to the School and the responsibility we share for the School's long term success.

We both feel that we have the necessary professional and practical skills and expertise to steer the Governing Body forward. Our plan is to bring a fresh approach to the School's governance, with transparency, community and partnership as our key priorities.

We would like to thank Alex Duncan for her hard work and dedication to the School during her time as chair over the last two years. Alex is remaining a member of the Governing Body and we look forward to continuing to work with her.

We will be in touch again soon to give you an update on the recent work of the Governing Body, including the progress made in response to the parent survey carried out earlier this year.

We are always keen to hear your thoughts. We are often at the school gates but you can also contact us directly on chair@wimbledonchase.merton.sch.uk. We are planning another Governor Forum in the New Year, which will be an opportunity to talk to us and the other governors face to face. We look forward to meeting many more of you in the coming weeks and months.

Kind regards,

Tom Jeans and Zoe Leventhal
Chair@wimbledonchase.merton.sch.uk

Tom Jeans



I work in the public service for BBC Children's. Learning is at the heart of CBeebies and CBBC and we're very proud of the trust that we've established with parents through our stimulating, enriching content for kids. I'm a commercial lawyer and lead BBC Children's legal and commercial teams.

My job has given me an insight into the mounting challenges facing children in the UK and I am particularly looking forward to working with the Governing Body to celebrate diversity in all its forms and to promote a culture of inclusiveness and social cohesion amongst adults and children alike within our community.

I'm married to Becky and have two children who attend the School.

Zoe Leventhal



I am a barrister with over 16 years' experience. I practise in public law and human rights, acting for individuals, NGOs and government bodies. My day to day work involves appearing in court and advising my clients on strategy and policy decisions across a range of areas including health and welfare law, environmental law and equality & discrimination law.

My training means that I bring a logical and evidenced-based approach to the governing body. I enjoy being a trouble-shooter for governors and the Headteacher. I am passionate about our local community and very proud of Wimbledon Chase School. I look forward to engaging with all parts of our community as part of my work on the Governing Body.

I have lived in Wimbledon since 2012. Ed and I have two children at the school.